RHUS VERNIX.

Poison Sumach or Dogwood.

PLATE X.

The fine, smooth foliage of the Rhus renders it one of the most elegant of our native shrubs, while its well known poisonous qualities make it an object of aversion, and deter most persons from a near inspection of its structure and characteristics. From Canada to Carolina it is a common tenant of swamps and meadows, usually attaining the height of ten or fifteen feet, but sometimes rising into a tree of twice that altitude. The names of *Poison tree, Poison wood, Poison ash,* &c. are applied to it in different parts of the United States. In Massachusetts it is universally known by the name of *Dogwood*. This appellation, being applied throughout the country to *Cornus florida*, serves to shew the fallacy of de-